SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting of Thursday, November 16, 1995
Room BC-110, 10:30

Present: V. Baba, E. Besso, P. Bird, T. Bui (Chair), D. Gold, F. Haghighat, K. Lipke, E. Loo (recording secretary), D. Markiewicz, S. Suen, J. Tomberlin, M. Vipond

Regrets: R. Storms

Absent: B. Anderson

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

SRC-11-16-95-A	Agenda for the SRC Meeting of November 16, 1995
SRC-09-21-95-M	Minutes of the SRC Meeting of September 21, 1995
SRC-11-16-95-D1	Revised Recommendations for the Report on Research Centres at Concordia University as approved by the ad hoc task force (July 27, 1995).
SRC-11-16-95-D1a	Memo from Dr. P.C. Abrami, Director, Centre for the Study of Classroom Processes to Dr. P. Bird, Vice-Dean (Research), Arts & Science, re: Comments on the Draft Report on Research Centres at Concordia University .
SRC-11-16-95-D2	NSERC Communications dated October 26, 1995, re: Program Modifications.
SRC-11-16-95-D3	Memo from Ms. E.F. Nardocchio, President, Canadian Federation for the Humanities, re: Restructuring of Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Science Federation of Canada.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. Chair announced that Ms.Kristina Bolh will be the Undergraduate Student representative and he welcomed Dr. Mary Vipond from History Department.

1. Approval of Agenda (SRC-11-16-95-A)

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of September 21, 1995.

Some minor changes were made on the first paragraph of page 4, "The mandate of the task force was to work with what is perceived to be the lack of explicit, consistent administrative structure for research centres. P. Shizgal's memo also make a point that research centres were not included in the academic planning...." . The Minutes for the April 20, meeting were approved.

3. Business arising from Minutes

There is only one item Policy on Indirect Cost Recovery from Research Grants which is item 7 of the Agenda.

4. Report of the Chair

Chair remarked that he has invited Ms. Monique Charbonneau, President of Centre Francophone de Recherche en Informatisation des Organisations (CEFRIO). She has accepted to visit Concordia University, to talk about programs at CEFRIO and to discuss possible collaboration with the University. Chair will try to set-up linkages between CEFRIO and Faculty members at Concordia, he will invite the Deans to send other Faculty Members who might benefit from this meeting.

Chair reminded the Associate Deans to respond to his memo regarding suggestions for projects to be developed in collaboration with CRIM. The University shall by December send to CRIM a list of objectives of collaboration.

Telephone for research teams and centres: this has been an issue when granting agencies no longer allow charging telephone costs to research grants. Chair was given the mandate by the Vice-Rector, Academic to discuss with Vice-Rector, Services and Vice-Rector, Institutional, Relations and Finance. Chair has asked the associate Deans to give an estimate of telephone lines designated for research in their Faculty, which are currently being paid either by external grants of by the Faculty.

Chair will meet with the Vice-Rector, Services & Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations & Finance to convey that the number of request is not as enormous as it looks like.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

- The submissions period for grant applications is more or less completed.

- E. Besso jointly with McGill has submitted an application to NSERC - Intellectual Property Management Programme. This is to create a dedicated resource, in the form of a technology transfer professional, for the commercialization of research products from targeted areas developed at the two universities.

- There is a re-organization of the Targeted Research Branch at NSERC. It is being expanded to have three sections: Strategic Research Programme, Networks, Research Partnership Programs. The intent is to have more focused participation from industrial partners. The clarification to the changes will be announced in January.

- The Horizons research brochure had been put on hold because of a question whether it represented the totality of our research experience and the decision has been taken that the faculty of Commerce and Administration, will be involved in producing two further items. The writer is being contacted.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

- R. Mitchell & E.M. Besso will be attending the annual ADARUQ meeting. E.M. Besso will report on it at the next SRC meeting.

6. Question Period

V. Baba remarked that in term of the software, FCAR is better and more clear, whereas, SSHRC is not clear. FCAR contains new guidelines, they are different from those in the past. There are several restrictions to travel and this has to be looked at. The application guide has changed quite a bit, researchers are not able to provide the kind of information that they believe would enable the selection committee to make an accurate assessment of teams.

7. Revised Recommendations for the Report on Research Centres at Concordia University as approved by the ad hoc task force (September 21, 1995) (SRC-11-16-95-D1)

Chair remarked that document SRC-11-16-95-D1 is a slightly revised version of the document that was circulated last month. There are three changes in the document:

- The preamble.
- Section 2.2: The composition of the centre has been changed slightly.
- Section 2.4 Critical mass was defined under subsection 2.4c.

Since then, Chair has received through Dr. Bird a submission from Dr. P. Abrami, Director of Centre for Classroom Process. In a nutshell, what he is asking is to have a clear definition or clear policy with regard to the relationship between centres and other units which house the centres.

Chair noted that he will try to revise the document as much as possible, to take into account input and comments from members of this committee. Chair's intention is then to take the document to Vice-Rector, Academic and Deans. There has to be a consultation process at the level of the Deans, Vice-Rector, Academic and perhaps the Rector for input and from there, it will be back to the SRC committee, perhaps for approval before it goes to SCAPP.

P. Bird strongly supports Dr. P. Abrami's comments, specially with regard to course remission. These should be considered carefully.

In order to take into account Dr. Abrami's comment, the following changes were suggested:

- Section 2.1, the first sentence should be "it is recommended that a university fund for established and new research centres be created for the establishment, development and support of university research centres.
- Part 3 of Dr. Abrami comment could be incorporated in Section 2.4(f).

8. Adjournment

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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